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25X1

3 September 1963
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Copy 1

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant for Plans and Development, NPIC

25X1A ATTENTION:

SUBJECT: Data Block Reader

25X1 REFERENCE: dated 9 May 1963

1. The data block reader requested by subject staff study is very similar to one currently being completed by the Automatic Data Processing Branch of Collateral Support Division. Attached are the detailed specifications for this reader.

25X1A 2. Our experience with the initial data block reader built by about two years ago, leads us to believe that it would be impracticable to attempt an automatic readout on the original negative as part of the initial priority effort to produce dupe positives for immediate exploitation. We have found that variations in lamp intensity, improper wiring of lamps, defective lamps, film fog, flare, and tracking difficulties necessitate very close visual checking of the data block and in many cases hand corrections based on what we know should have been there rather than what is actually recorded or thought to be recorded. We believe that it would be impossible, with the reliability of the present clock, to readout the data block without substantially delaying the duplication of the original negative.

3. The very high correction rate also dictates against the use of a punched paper tape output and of magnetic tape unless provisions for correction and hand insertion of data to the magnetic tape are made at the data block reader. The speed of the reader is limited by the speed of the 026 card punch to approximately 13 frames per minute.

4. It would, we believe, be feasible to readout the data block at the processing site from an early dupe positive while the additional copies are being processed and assembled for the first shipment. Transmission of the data block information over teletype lines would require scrambling or encrypting the clear text information for security. Considering transmission and encryption system capabilities the data may be transmitted from the corrected card deck as easily and as rapidly as from paper tape or magnetic

Declass Review by NIMA/DOD

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SUBJECT: Data Block Reader [redacted] 25X1

tape. The data block reader being developed in CSD could be used for this purpose after it has been completed and carefully checked out under actual use conditions. Once all the kinks have been worked out in the prototype, additional readers can be produced relatively easily.

25X1A [redacted]

Chief, Collateral Support Division,
NPIC

Attachment:
Data Block Reader Specifications,
1 Copy

Distribution:
Cy 1 & 2 - Asst for Plans & Dev, w/att.
3 - Ch/TID
4 - Ch/ADPB/CSD
25X1A 5 & 6 - Ch/CSD

NPIC/CSD [redacted] (3 Sep 63)

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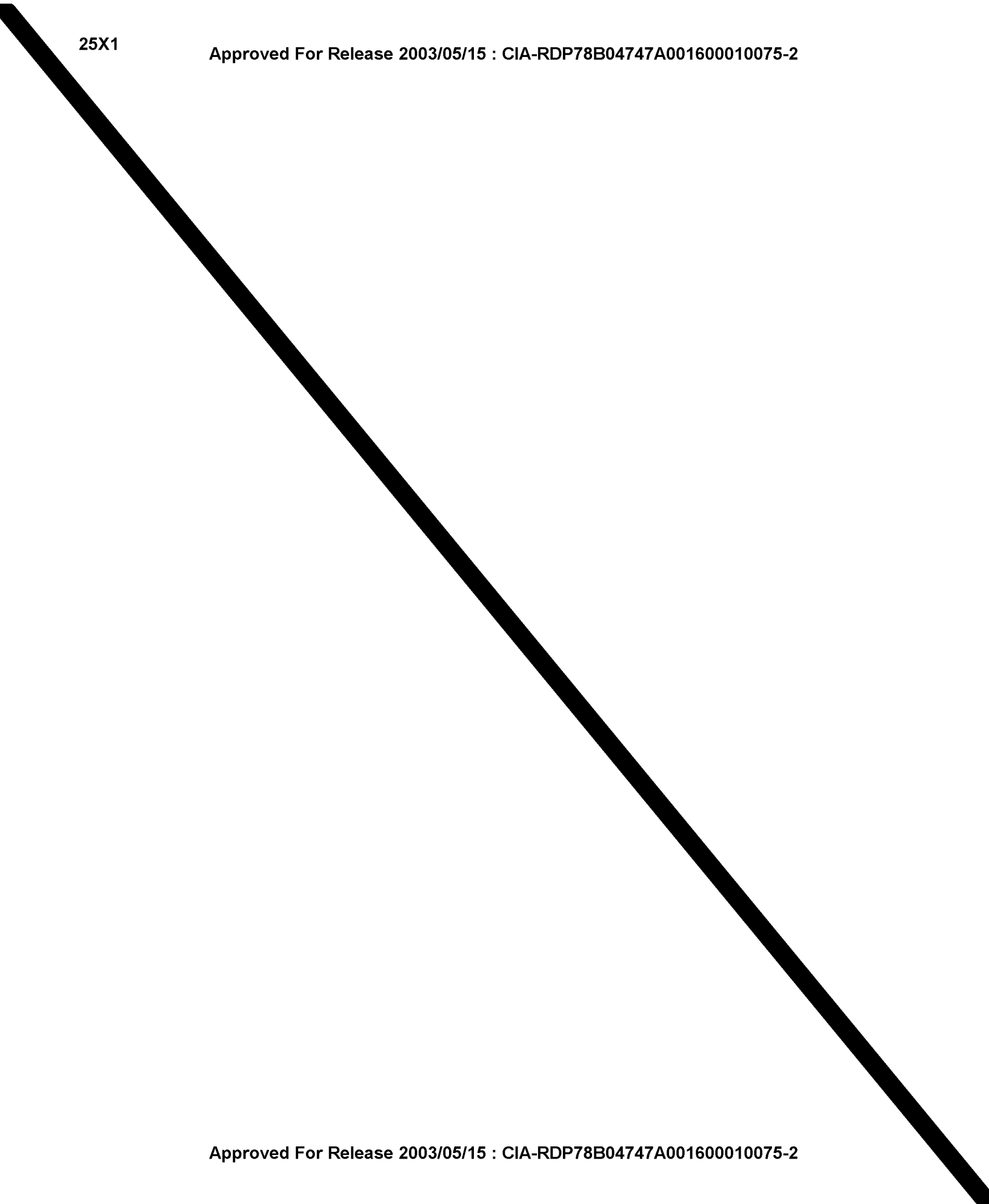

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